



Trinity Wood

Management Plan 2012-2017

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
10. Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Trinity Wood
Location:	Tasley, nr Bridgnorth
Grid reference:	SO698941, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 138
Area:	3.21 hectares (7.93 acres)
Designations:	

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Trinity Wood is a mixture of native broadleaf trees and has proved a very popular place to visit. Circular paths with wheel chair and pushchair access mean you can access the adjacent Brick Kiln Plantation. Main access point is on Church Lane

2.2 Extended Description

Trinity wood was planted in 1998 with a mixture of native broadleaved trees as part of the Woodland Trusts Woods on Your Doorstep project. While the site is just under 3.5 ha in size it provides a very attractive recreational resource that is extremely well used by local people. The sites appeal is heightened further by its location adjacent to a small mature woodland known as Brick Kiln plantation, also in Trust ownership.

A circular ride network linking the paths within both sites was created through consultation with local people as part of the design process for Trinity Wood. This gives visitors the opportunity to extend their walk through this more recently planted area and into Brick Kiln Plantation.

The site has proved a very popular place to visit for all ages and abilities with wheel chair and pushchair access, particularly in the drier summer months. The soils are characteristically free draining which makes it easy walking ground. While no formal parking is available, there is an informal "pull-in" opposite the main entrance along the minor road adjacent to the site; this can facilitate parking for up to three vehicles.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Nearest village - Tasley approximately ½ mile away. Site adjoins another Trust property called Brick Kiln Plantation. The main public access point is just off Church Lane through an old field gate way and crossing a small stretch of land owned by an adjacent farmer and then through a less-able kissing gate. There is a circular ride with a gentle easterly gradient, but they are freely drained and as such remain easy to walk on right through the year. There is also a link into the adjacent site, Brick Kiln Plantation through an opening in the hedge which separates the two sites from each other. The site can also be accessed via two gates adjacent to the chapel on Church Lane through the recently created grave yard extension.

Nearest bus stop - end of Church Lane approximately ½ mile away.

Nearest Train station - Shifnal, 9.1 miles

Nearest public toilet - Bridgnorth, Inneth Lane, 2 miles. Open 7am to 6pm with disabled facilities.

You can also try www.transportdirect.info or www.traveline.org.uk on the internet for the most up to date details for public transport in the area.

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

To create a wind firm, well structured native broadleaved woodland which complements the existing Trust woodland adjacent (Brick Kiln Plantation), thereby increasing the total area of valuable woodland habitat available locally. Now the woodland has gone beyond the establishment phase our long term intention is to move the site towards minimal intervention in line with our Woodland Management Principles. We shall carry out some low key ride and woodland edge work in order to promote stand stability and to increase the attractiveness of the path network.

In terms of public access and visitor enjoyment, the ride network and entrance points will be maintained in their present form as the current ride layout provides the optimum choice of routes for visitors in terms of length and ease of use. A minimum of two maintenance visits and ride cuts will take place annually. The width of the ride cuts will be varied to encourage a more diverse ride edge habitat as this will provide greater conservation and visitor interest.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1 Informal Public Access

Description

The woodland has an attractive circular ride that leads up to the highest point on site and to a sculptured seat (A choice by local people as a Millennium feature) ; then back around through the plantation to the main entrance. Visitors have the option to link walks with the path running through Brick Kiln Plantation, allowing them the varied experience of walking through both mature and more recently planted woodland. In addition to site related features and attractions, Trinity Wood affords the visitor good views of Bridgnorth and the surrounding area.

The site is gently sloping and generally well drained providing ground conditions which are firm/dry (as is often the case in the summer months). AS such wheel chairs and pushchairs can access the site.

Significance

Easily linked on foot with other areas of accessible woodland this woodland creation site is easily accessible to locals, and has been much appreciated by those that regularly use it for quiet informal recreation. Sites such as Trinity Wood, managed for perpetuity, serve as important social and physical landmarks enjoyed by numerous generations. The wood will also serve as a continuous reference point, food source and habitat to a wide range of wildlife, and so provide a location and opportunity for the public to access and enjoy nature.

Opportunities & Constraints

Since its creation the site has proved very popular with the local community. Through maintaining the wood as a safe and inviting place to visit, and where practicable through the inclusion of local interest groups and volunteers, the opportunity exists to install and maintain a strong sense of local ownership and a greater understanding of the amenity and conservation values derived from new native woodland.

Constraints

When the Trust first acquired the site there were some reported problems with an adjacent land owner who was rude and threatening toward some visitors and informed them that they could not access the site along the management access at the woods south west corner. This is not the case, and following police action no further reports of threatening behaviour have been received.

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To maintain open access throughout the whole of the site. The paths and entrances will be cut during the summer months to keep them clear and well defined. Welcome signs will be maintained for visitors use at the entrance.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

The Trust will maintain the current entrance points and network of rides and paths through the continuation of the annual maintenance programme which includes a minimum of two ride cuts and entrance inspection visits.

The ride cuts will be varied in terms of width with the earlier cut at a maximum width of 2-3 meters, and the later cut to the full width of the ride. This will maintain an inviting aspect to the rides whilst allowing a greater number of grasses and plants that flower and seed later in the summer to have chance to do so before the final cut takes place.

5.2 New Native Woodland

Description

3.4 hectares of new planting on a former arable field. Prior to planting the site was seeded with a low vigour fescue mix this remains the dominant ground flora in the woodland blocks and open ground although greater diversity exists at the headlands and hedgerows. Soil conditions and species found locally dictated planting of a woodland emulating NVC woodland types W6 (Alder Willow Woodland) and W7 (Alder-Ash Woodland) in wetter areas and Ash with English Oak (NVC W8) elsewhere. Shrubs planted include Hazel, Hawthorn, Guelder Rose which were concentrated along the ride edges and planting block margins to provide a more graded structure to the woodland. Three of the woodland boundaries comprise mixed thorn hedge with occasional semi-mature oak, Field Maple and Ash. The fourth boundary is a post and wire fence adjacent to land owned by the local church to the west of the site.

Significance

The site is close to the village of Tasley and the town of Bridgnorth, and is easily accessible on foot via the surrounding footpath network. Trinity Wood was created as part of the Millennium Project Woodland Trusts Woods On Your Doorstep. From the very beginning the local community have been encouraged to feel a sense of ownership towards the wood and to participate in its development. The use of nearly all Woodland Trust owned sites for quiet, informal public recreation forms a core to the Woodland Trusts vision for the future.

The creation of new native broadleaved woodland is an aim of the Woodland Trust and has also been identified as a priority by the Government in The England Forestry Strategy. The juxtaposition of Trinity Wood within a landscape regionally poor in woodland, and near an area of high population means that the wood helps deliver national and regional forestry strategy goals, and the Woodland Trusts own core objectives of "restoring and improving biodiversity - increasing public awareness in woodland" and "creating new native woodland".

Opportunities & Constraints

Through seeking naturally paced development within the wood there is the opportunity to minimize interruption of the intimate and complex cycles between lower plants, fungi - invertebrates and the larger woodland structure allowing the widest possible range of species and habitats to evolve and survive.

Due to the predominantly single aged upper canopy, many stands in the woodland will advance into senescence at the same time, providing opportunities through the tree safety programme to create specialised deadwood and decay habitats whilst opening up regeneration coupes.

Factors Causing Change

Rabbit damage, Fire

Long term Objective (50 years+)

To ensure the establishment in perpetuity of a native broadleaf woodland. That through low levels of intervention, and where practicable a natural rate of change, allows the widest possible range of species and habitats to evolve and survive. This will offer an ongoing amenity to the local population and ensure the continuity of woodland habit as an integral part of the areas greater ecological landscape.

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

To remove any remaining tree shelters that are likely to cause damage to developing trees. Otherwise the wood will be allowed to develop naturally with exception of essential tree safety work, and possibly some ride edge coppicing where this will enhance visitor enjoyment.

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	3.21	other oak spp	1998	Min-intervention		Informal Public Access, New Native Woodland	

An area of former arable and pasture land which was planted with a mixture of native broadleaves in the winter of 1998. English Oak and Ash (major species) hazel, field maple, hawthorn, guelder rose, crack willow and alder.

GLOSSARY

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.